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California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region

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October 12, 2010

In reply refer to:
Adai:244506

Mr. Steve Meyer, Deputy Director
Metropolitan Wastewater Division
City of San Diego
2392 Kincaid Road
San Diego, CA 92101-2309

Dear Mr. Meyer

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2010 RECYCLED WATER SPILL

This letter is in response to the City of San Diego's report for the 1,408,000 spill of recycled water, which occurred in September 2010 near Black Mountain Road and Carmel Valley Road, San Diego. The report indicates the spill was caused by the failure of a pump valve to close and discussed several measures that could be initiated for preventing similar spills from occurring in the future. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) requests a follow-up report describing what new measures have been taken at pump stations within the City's recycled water system as a consequence of this spill. The report should include responses to the following questions.

1. Is preventative maintenance occurring more frequently?
2. Is replacing solenoid valves a part of routine maintenance and if so at what frequency are the valves replaced?
3. Are the inspections of the pump stations occurring more frequently and if so what change has occurred?
4. What measures have been taken to improve communication between the SCADA operator and Operation and Maintenance staff?

The September 2010 recycled water spill was in violation of the California Water Code, Section 13264 as it was an unauthorized discharge of waste. This violation subjects the City to possible further enforcement action by the San Diego Water Board, including administrative enforcement orders requiring the you to cease and desist from violations, or to clean up waste and abate existing or threatened conditions of pollution or nuisance; administrative assessment of civil liability in amounts of up to \$5,000 per day per violation;¹ and referral to the State Attorney General for injunctive relief. The

¹ Under authority of California Water Code section 13350.

Mr. Meyer

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timeliness and completeness of the City's response to this letter and the actions taken by the City to prevent similar spills will be considered before pursuing further enforcement on this matter.

In the subject line of any response, please include the requested "In reply refer to:" information located in the heading of this letter. For questions pertaining to the subject matter, please contact Amanda Dai at (858) 627-3977 or via email at adai@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert Morris

Robert Morris, P.E.
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer
Cleanup and Land Discharge Branch

Regulatory Measure ID: 376029
Violation ID: 881590